

Pragati Grameen Vikas Sanstha

Betul

Annual Report 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022

Pragati Grameen Vikas Sanstha is active in the village of Bhimpur, situated in the development block of Betul district. This area is characterized by its backward rural and tribal nature, leading to limited access to education for the children of local families due to information gaps and a fundamental lack of educational resources. This village is located approximately 65 km away from the district headquarters in Betul, with an additional 10 km distance. The region is rugged, rocky, and barren, resulting in a reliance on rainy seasons for crop cultivation. For the rest of the year, residents must seek employment outside their families' activities. The organization has taken initiatives to raise awareness in villages like Peepaldhana, Bhandwa, and Manakdand. Programs are designed to cover education, sanitation, and organic agriculture. These villages are economically fragile, leading to limited educational opportunities, particularly for girls who are often engaged in both fieldwork and household responsibilities. This situation has dimmed the prospects for the girls' future. In such challenging circumstances, providing books instead of labor for girls and guiding them towards a brighter future is indeed a daunting task.

An effort was undertaken to impart practical information concerning various significant life aspects to the girl students. This included emphasizing the importance of social relationships, highlighting the roles of women within the village context, such as in Panchayati Raj, elucidating the value of education for a successful life and its practical benefits, underlining the essential role of education for livelihood and employment. Additionally, comprehensive guidance was provided on improving studies through better health practices, addressing challenges and taking precautions for the health well-being of adolescent girls. The information also covered topics like combining education with earning, setting life goals, devising strategies for their accomplishment, and maintaining a consistent effort.

The initiative further aimed at cultivating wise decisions in terms of education and career, while also addressing the impact of traditional practices on the health of girl children. Topics encompassed the effects of these practices on various aspects, such as stress management, dealing with drug abuse among adolescents, understanding sexual assault and abuse, and addressing related issues.

Parents play a crucial role in ensuring the essential and mandatory education of girl students, particularly concerning their preparation for government jobs. The involvement of parents is instrumental in aiding their daughters' pursuit of higher education, encompassing college studies, industrial training institutes, and computer education centers.

The session aimed to inspire parents to embrace their responsibility fully and effectively, while a knowledgeable speaker from the field of ITI provided insight. The presentation covered a range of pertinent information, including details on various college courses and the

technical subjects offered. These subjects encompass Electrician, Fitter, Turner, Welder, Carpenter, Computer Application, Shorthand, and more. Parents were encouraged to actively guide and support their daughters' educational journey, enabling them to access these opportunities. By engaging parents in their daughters' education and providing them with comprehensive information, the session sought to create a supportive environment that fosters the pursuit of education and empowers girls to explore diverse fields and career paths.

Health and Sanitation Program: Information pertaining to health and sanitation was disseminated across the villages of Peepaldhana, Bhandwa, Jhapal, and Manakdand, as outlined below. The program focused on enhancing awareness about cleanliness and health, aiming to sensitize the residents of these five villages. The objective was to uplift the overall village environment by cultivating improved personal hygiene practices and health habits through engaging workshops. This approach was aimed at breaking the cycle of disease transmission that often results from unsanitary conditions. The initiative encompassed the provision of insights into seven critical aspects of cleanliness.



Guidance Provided to Girl Students:

1. Emphasized the importance of cleaning teeth thoroughly every morning to avoid dental issues.
2. Encouraged all girl students to wake up early and take a morning walk in the cold weather for better health.
3. Highlighted that traveling during cold days can help prevent various diseases.
4. Stressed the significance of regular nail cleaning.
5. Advised consuming freshly prepared food and avoiding food with unusual smells.
6. Cautioned against drinking water immediately after exposure to the hot sun, suggesting waiting for a while.
7. Suggested wearing a cloth, like a handkerchief, on the head before going out in the hot sun to shield from its rays. Also, emphasized the consumption of fruits and inclusion of green and leafy vegetables in the diet.



Achievements:

1. A reduction in the prevalence of diseases was observed.
2. Increased community focus on cleanliness and health.
3. Villagers initiated the construction of low-cost dry toilets through Panchayat planning and voluntary efforts.
4. Improved standards of living and enhanced cleanliness among school children.
5. Villagers actively engaged in periodic cleanliness activities around village handpumps and wells

Organic Agriculture Vermicompost Program: In the village of Bhandwa and Pipaldhana, a focus was placed on enhancing agricultural practices through fertilization. The goal was to progressively improve soil fertility and safeguard its nutritional components, leading to increased crop yields. To achieve this, detailed information was shared about the adverse effects associated with chemical fertilizers like Urea and DAP. This knowledge inspired more individuals to embrace organic farming methods. Specifically, the program highlighted the advantages of organic agriculture,



which produces foods free from toxic pesticides. The detrimental impact of these pesticides on human health was underlined. Furthermore, comprehensive insights were provided regarding the establishment and utilization of a vermicompost unit for rearing earthworms. Organic foods were emphasized for their superior nutritional content and overall quality compared to chemically treated foods.

The benefits of consuming organic foods were elaborated upon, explaining that individuals who incorporate organic foods into their diets generally experience fewer illnesses, quicker recovery from sickness, prolonged work capacity, reduced fatigue, and sustained energy levels. This approach aligns with the principles of holistic health and environmentally sustainable practices.

Objective of Organic Farming:

1. Achieve sustained and ample production of healthy and nutritious food.
2. Cultivate crops in alignment with their natural growth tendencies, minimizing human intervention to maintain optimal conditions.
3. Minimize soil pollution and erosion, promoting soil health and longevity.
4. Enhance the long-term biological vitality of crops through natural insecticides and fertilizers.
5. Preserve genetic and biological diversity within plant and animal species.
6. Encourage the utilization of recycled materials and reliance on renewable resources across industries.
7. Develop organic solutions for safeguarding crops from insects and weeds without the use of synthetic chemicals.
8. These objectives underline the holistic and environmentally conscious approach of organic farming, emphasizing ecological balance, human health, and sustainable practices.

There are two primary types of organic farming:

1. Pure Organic Farming: This approach involves completely avoiding the use of synthetic and unnatural chemicals. Instead, it relies on organic materials like cow manure, as well as fertilizers and pesticides derived from animal by-products, such as bone meal or blood meal.

2. Integrated Organic Farming: In this type of farming, an integrated approach to nutrient management and pest control is adopted. The focus is on sustainable practices and employing natural methods for crop cultivation. This includes the use of integrated pest management techniques and nurturing crops through renewable and natural means.

Several methods are commonly employed in various types of organic farming:

1. **Crop Rotation:** This method involves alternating the types of crops grown in a particular field each year. By avoiding the continuous cultivation of the same crop, nutrients are replenished in the soil, and the cycle of insects and parasites is disrupted.
2. **Mulching:** Many farmers utilize mulching, where a layer of organic material is placed on the soil's surface. This not only promotes soil health but also



prevents weed growth. Mulching helps retain soil moisture, ultimately leading to increased crop production.

3. **Green Manure:** In this technique, farmers grow cover crops, such as cereals, seeds, and oilseeds, which are subsequently plowed back into the soil. This process improves soil structure, enhances nutrient content, and increases aeration in the soil.

These organic farming methods contribute to soil fertility, pest management, and overall sustainable agricultural practices. They are integral components of organic farming systems, aligning with the principles of natural balance and environmental preservation.

Benefits of Organic Farming:

1. **Enhanced Soil Fertility:** Organic farming improves the soil's fertility over time, ensuring its long-term productivity and health.
2. **Extended Irrigation Intervals:** Organic practices often lead to better water retention in the soil, reducing the frequency of irrigation required.
3. **Cost Reduction:** By minimizing reliance on chemical fertilizers and synthetic inputs, organic farming lowers production costs.
4. **Increased Crop Productivity:** Organic methods, such as crop rotation and natural pest management, contribute to higher crop yields.
5. **Income Boost:** The rising demand for organic products in the market can lead to increased income for farmers who adopt organic farming practices

Gram Swaraj System:

The Gram Swaraj System is designed to empower representatives from villages within the Bhimpur development block. This system involves educating Sarpanch, Panch Upsarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, Treasurer, and women representatives about various aspects like education, health, and sanitation. It encompasses explaining government policies, rules, and the simplified form of governance in the context of village administration.

The primary aim is to raise awareness among both the general public and representatives, enabling them to make informed decisions based on knowledge and understanding. By fostering enthusiasm and inspiration, the system seeks to equip individuals with the ability to implement government policies effectively. Additionally, the focus is on utilizing available

resources to their maximum potential and capitalizing on beneficial schemes for economic development.

This comprehensive approach intends to provide essential information and resources to those truly in need, promoting community cooperation and a collective mindset. Ultimately, the Gram Swaraj System aims to enhance self-reliance, knowledge-based decision-making, and community development within villages.

Achievements:

1. **Increased Regularity of Gram Sabha Meetings:** The Gram Sabha meetings witnessed improved regularity, accompanied by higher attendance rates.
2. **Reduced Dependence on Officials:** Sarpanchs' reliance on secretaries and government employees has decreased, indicating a shift towards increased self-reliance and local decision-making.
3. **Utilization of Government Schemes:** Villagers have begun to avail the benefits of government schemes, thereby capitalizing on opportunities provided for their well-being.
4. **Enhanced Environmental Awareness:** Recognizing the significance of water, forests, and land, villagers have taken initiative to enhance agricultural lands, conserve water, and actively engage in tree planting efforts.



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